



educate2elevate

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First-of-its-Kind Grant to Benefit Middle School Students

Educate2Elevate Grant To Support Central New Mexico Students

Albuquerque, NM – The *E2E Grant* is a first-of-its-kind grant opportunity that brings together funders from across New Mexico to pool resources and make one high impact grant of \$65,000. The *E2E Grant* program will support middle school initiatives that advance future educational, personal and/or professional pathways for students in grades 6, 7 and 8.

This new grant program focuses on funding programs that can make a difference and improve middle school student success. Recent national data show that middle school students in New Mexico rank among the nation's lowest in math and literacy rates. These critical years serve as the bridge between when a student may plant the seeds for a successful path in high school, potentially leading to college and/or career readiness, or when a student may fall behind and struggle to continue with his/her education.

"We are excited to bring multiple funders to the table to create grants that can truly make a positive impact on middle school student outcomes," said Joanna Colangelo, Grants & Community Outreach Advisor for the Albuquerque Community Foundation. "Middle school is a critical time where we believe we can make a difference with students that affects their long-term success." Funders for the *E2E Grant* include: Airforce Research Laboratory, Albuquerque Community Foundation, Bank of Albuquerque, Intel, McCune Charitable Foundation, New Mexico Gas Company, Nusenda Credit Union Foundation, PNM Resources Foundation, Sandia National Labs Foundation, Southwest Capital Bank, United Way of Central New Mexico's Hispano Philanthropic Society, Verdes Foundation and Wells Fargo.

The application process for these grants will open on October 23 and must serve students in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia and/or Tarrant counties. Only nonprofit organizations or educational or governmental institutions may apply and each applicant is limited to one application. The deadline for submitting an application is November 6 and applications must be submitted online at www.sharenm.org.

This innovative approach is a collaborative investment from funders in various sectors. Organizations are encouraged to demonstrate similar collaborative thinking when submitting applications. Applications will be evaluated by the program's ability to strengthen one of the following areas:

1. Parent/adult/mentor involvement: Programs that engage adults as role-models or serve as supportive figures in a middle school student's life and education.
2. Out-of-school time/extended learning programming: Afterschool, summer or other out-of-school time programs that boost students' educational, social and/or behavioral growth to keep them engaged in their academic success. Programs may include, but are not limited to, math, literacy, STEM, arts, sports.
3. Project-based learning: Programs in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem or challenge.
4. Transitional programs: Programs that address the challenges middle school students may face transitioning from elementary school to middle school and leaving middle school to enter high school. Thoughtful transitions can be critical in creating a continuum of positive educational trajectory.
5. Career readiness: Programs that expose students to career and workforce development opportunities as a way to supplement classroom activities. This may also include financial literacy and soft-skill development.
6. Teacher/professional development: Programs that support the advancement of teachers' professional and classroom development so they can better position their students to academic and personal success.

The full Request For Proposals (RFP) is available at www.nmfunders.org and includes additional guidelines and requirements. Like [New Mexico Funders Collaborative](#) on Facebook. An evaluation committee from the organizations funding the *E2E Grant* will make the final grant selections. Grant announcement(s) will be made in December 2017.

The **NM Funders Collaborative** is a network of statewide funders committed to pooling time, energy and resources for the betterment of New Mexico communities. The Collaborative is guided by a shared belief that we are stronger together and we can work in partnership to create long-term systemic change in New Mexico.

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